



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Thursday, January 29, 2015

Snow	2	National Drought Summary for January 27, 2015	16
Precipitation.....	3	Supplemental Drought Information	18
Temperature.....	6	National Seasonal Drought Outlook	18
Weather and Drought Summary	8	2014 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations, as of January 28, 2015.....	18
Risk Management Web Resources.....	9	National Fire Potential Outlook.....	19
U.S. Population in Drought	12	Supplemental Drought-Agriculture News	19
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories	13	Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions.....	20
Soil Moisture.....	14	California Reservoir Conditions	21
Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)	14	State Activities	21
Streamflow	15	More Information	21
National Long-Range Outlook.....	15		
National Weather Hazards.....	16		



NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting [Photo Contest](#)

1st Place

Category: [2012 Field Work](#)

Ray Wilson, Mt. Baldy, Utah,
March 2007

Photographer: Randy
Julander

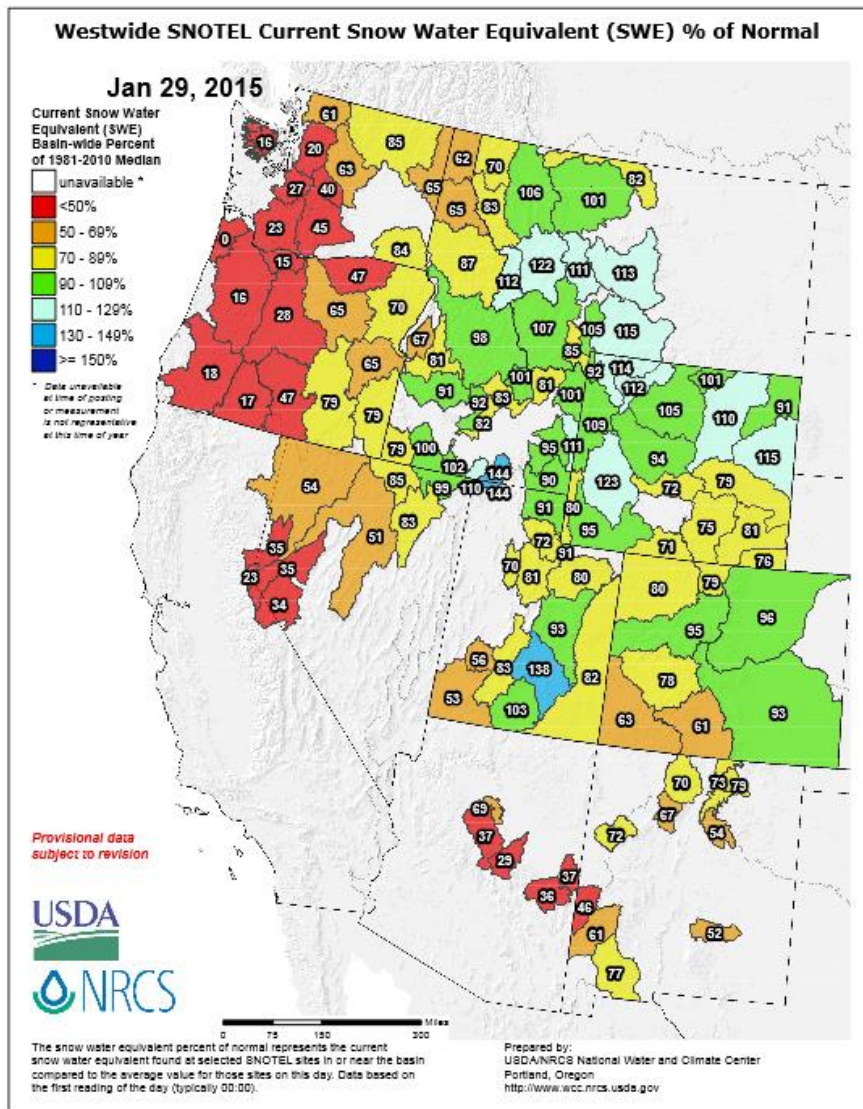
Outlook: “For the remainder of today, a fast-moving disturbance will produce some wintry precipitation across the nation’s northeastern quadrant. Precipitation will linger into Friday across New England. Meanwhile, a developing storm over the Southwest will drift eastward, reaching the Mid-Atlantic States by early next week. Storm-total precipitation could reach 1 to 3 inches in the Southwest; 0.5 to 1.5 inches on the southern Plains; and as much as 0.5 to 1.5 inches in the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States. The storm could also produce widespread wintry precipitation (snow, sleet, and freezing rain) across southern portions of the Rockies and High Plains, and from the middle Mississippi Valley into the Mid-Atlantic region. During the next few days, most of the areas of the U.S. currently experiencing mild weather will see a turn toward sharply colder conditions. This is especially true across the central U.S., where some of the warmest January weather on record has been occurring. Warmth will continue, however, across northern California and the Great Basin. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for February 3-7 calls for above-normal temperatures in the West, while colder-than-normal conditions will dominate the central and eastern U.S. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal precipitation across most of the country will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the northern and central Rockies and along the southern Atlantic Coast.”

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>

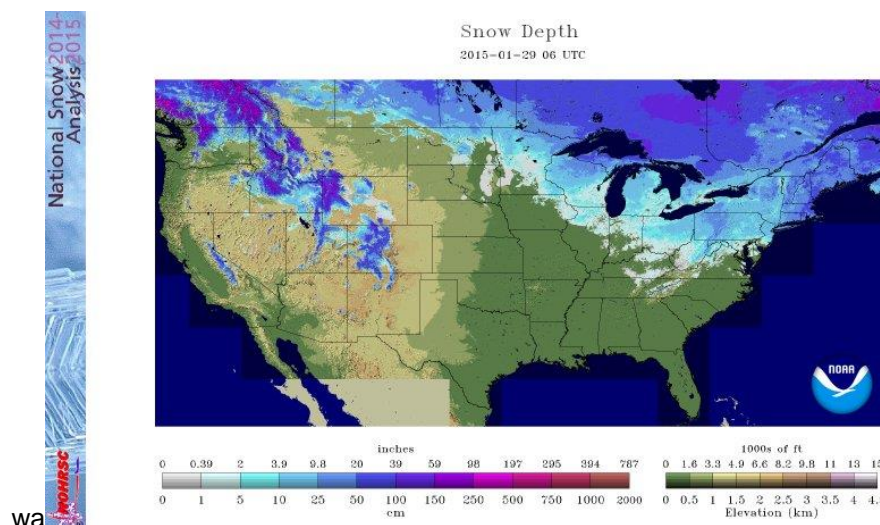
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

Snow



The [Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent \(SWE\) percent of Normal map](#) shows the largest snowpack deficits (red areas) are in the Cascades and Olympics of Oregon and Washington, the Sierra Nevada in Nevada and California, as well as basins in Arizona, and one basin in western New Mexico. Still less than normal, but not quite as dry are snowpacks in parts of eastern Washington and Oregon, northern Idaho, southwestern Utah, northwestern Nevada, southwest Colorado, southeast Wyoming, much of New Mexico, and a few basins in northern Montana (orange and yellow areas).

Some basins in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Utah have recorded above normal SWE values (blue areas).



Snow depth map for the U.S. as reported from [NWS NOHRSC](#) for January 29, 2015. Snow is reported across much of the mountains in the West, the upper Midwest, much of the northern Great Plains, and the Northeast. The recent snowfall in the Northeast and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan increased the snow substantially.

Although showing substantial snow depth in Colorado and in the north Cascades of Washington, snow is not above average in these areas.

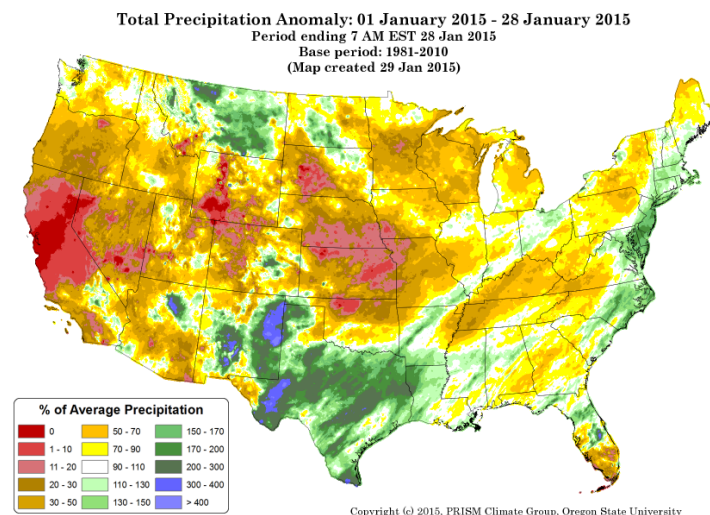
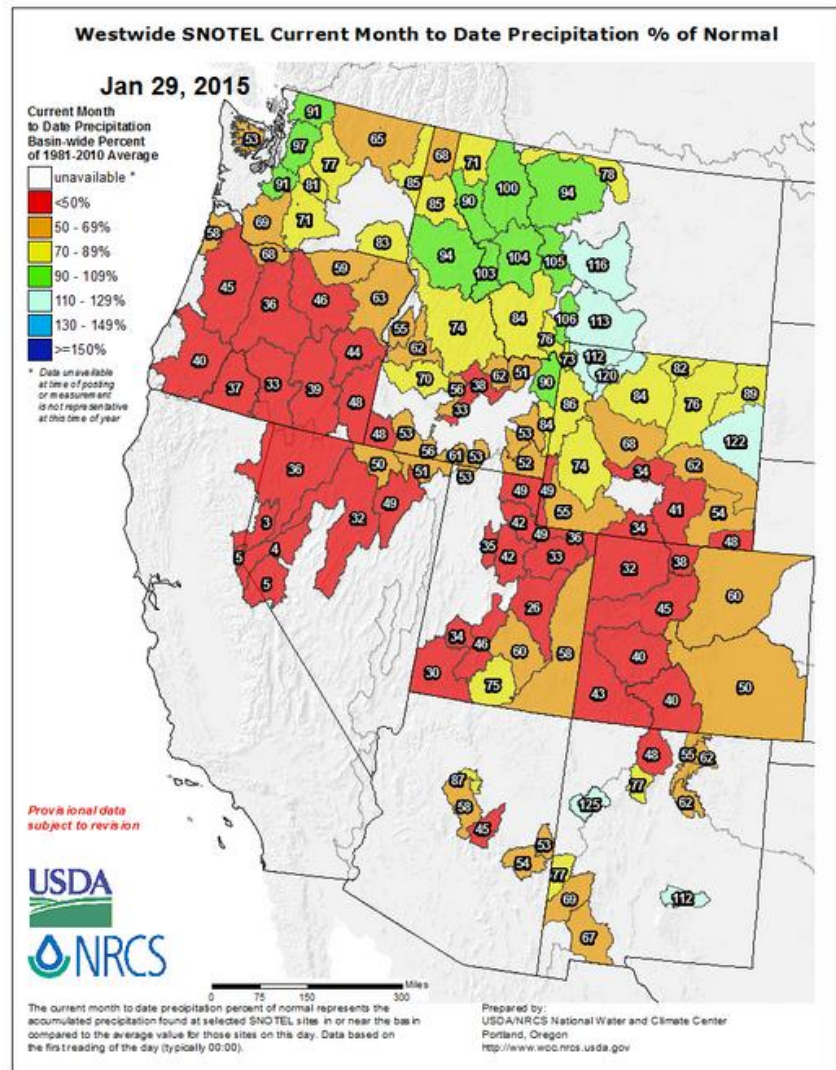
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Precipitation

In the West, the [SNOTEL](#) precipitation percent of normal map for the current month shows that much of the West has been very dry in January. Below normal precipitation occurred across most of Oregon, California, Nevada, southern Idaho, Utah, parts of Wyoming, Colorado, most of Arizona, New Mexico and basins in Washington and northern Montana.

Above normal precipitation is occurred in a few basins in central Idaho, southern Montana, and Wyoming.

Click on most maps in this report to enlarge and see the latest available update.



Thus far in January 2015, the national total [precipitation anomaly](#) pattern reveals some higher than normal precipitation, primarily in central Montana, central Arizona, central and eastern New Mexico, much of Texas, Louisiana, and central Arkansas. A few areas of Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and New England also received above normal precipitation. There was little or no precipitation in California, Nevada, portions of Oregon, southern Idaho, parts of Wyoming, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and central South Dakota (red and dark orange areas).

This preliminary daily PRISM precipitation anomaly map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and is updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

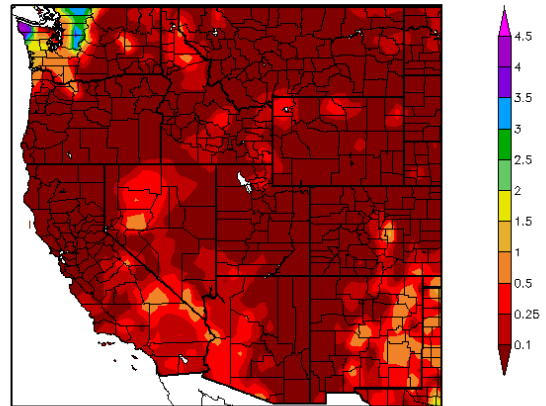
The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows precipitation concentrated in northwest Oregon and Washington. Scattered precipitation was also recorded in southern California, central and southern Nevada, northern Idaho, western Arizona, and eastern New Mexico. The highest areas of significant precipitation were in the Olympic Mountains of Washington, with over 4 inches for the week.

Little to no precipitation fell across most of the West this week (dark red). This includes most of California, eastern Nevada, Oregon, central Idaho, most of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, eastern Arizona, and western New Mexico.

This percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days reflects precipitation scattered across many parts of the region. The heaviest percent of normal precipitation fell in central Idaho and northeast New Mexico (over 800%). Other significant rainfall was recorded in Colorado, eastern Montana, northern Wyoming, western Arizona, southern California, and Washington (purple areas). Many areas of little to no precipitation occurred in California, Oregon, central Utah, western Colorado, Wyoming, and central Montana (red areas).

Percent of normal precipitation may be exaggerated in areas where the average for this period is at or near zero.

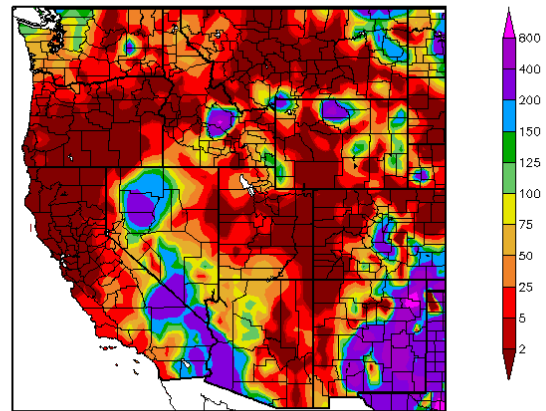
Precipitation (in)
1/22/2015 – 1/28/2015



Generated 1/29/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

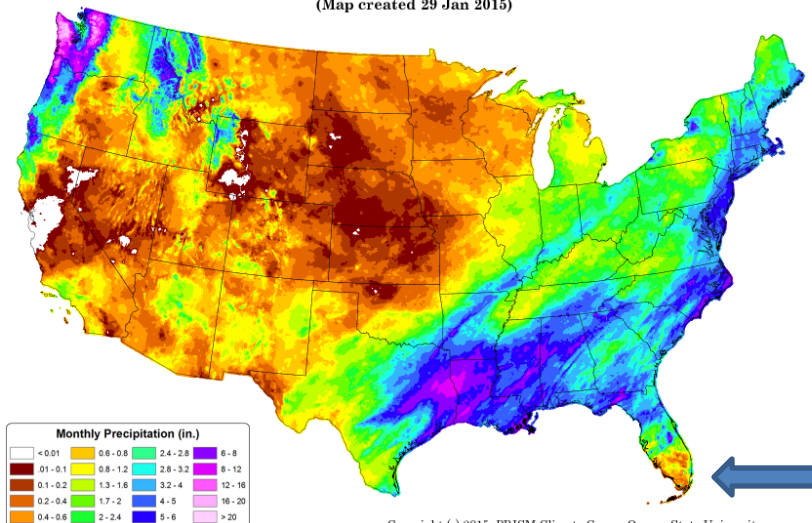
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/22/2015 – 1/28/2015



Generated 1/29/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Total Precipitation: 01 January 2015 - 28 January 2015
Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Jan 2015
(Map created 29 Jan 2015)



Copyright (c) 2015, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

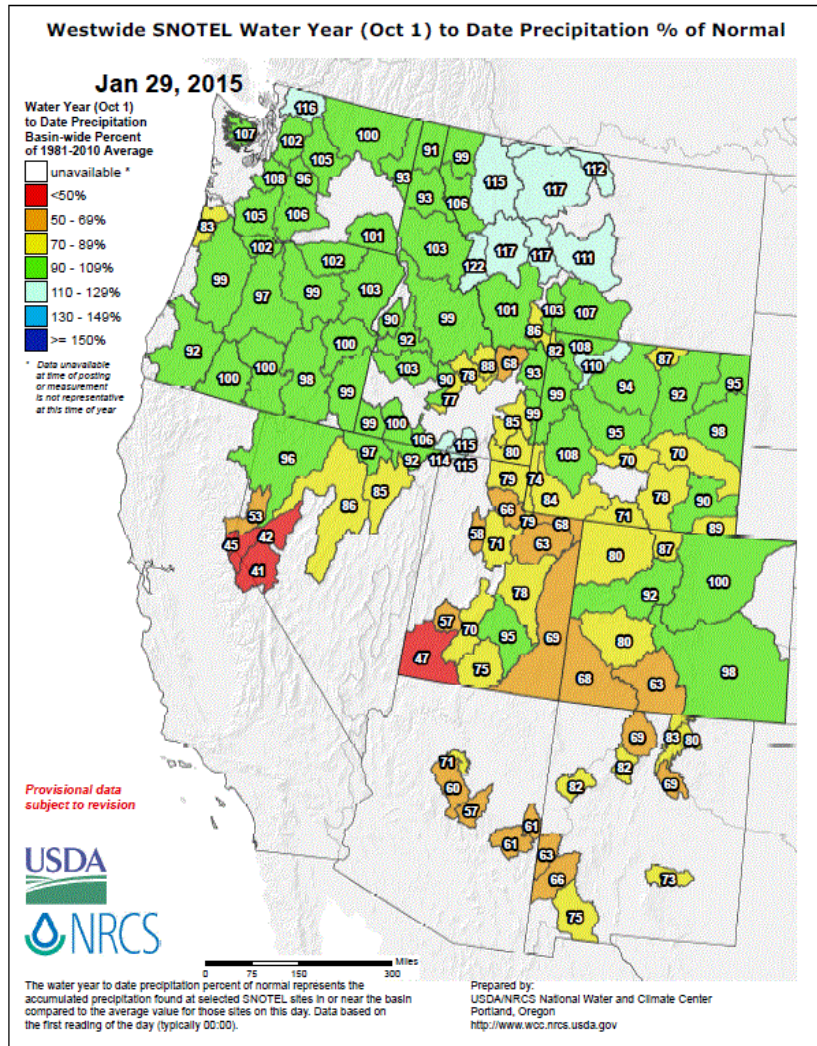
So far in January 2015, the [total precipitation](#) across the continental U.S. was heaviest in western Washington and Oregon. Eastern Texas and Louisiana also had an area of precipitation above 8 inches for this month. Recent storms in the Northeast increased their totals to over 5 inches for January 2015. In contrast, much of California, Nevada, and parts of Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and southern Florida were mainly dry.

See [Go Hydrology](#) for current and forecast conditions over southern Florida.

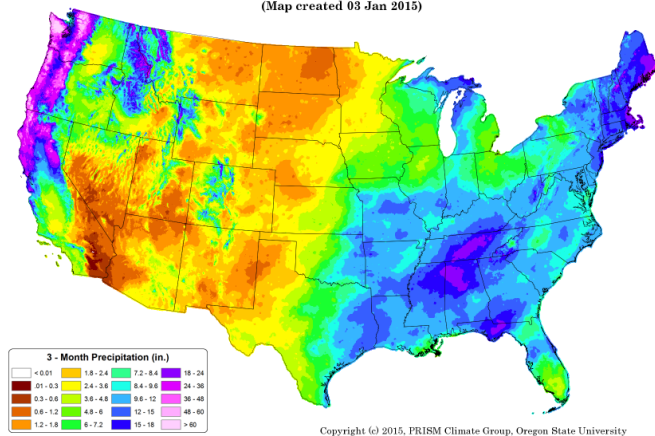
Weekly Water and Climate Update

For the [2015 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2014, the highest precipitation surpluses are reported in a few basins in central Idaho and Montana. One basin in western Wyoming, several basins in Montana and southern Idaho, and one basin in northwest Utah are over 110% at this time.

Many basins across the West have near normal conditions for this part of the Water Year (mapped in green). A few areas have less than normal precipitation for the Water Year. These include basins in eastern Idaho, parts of Wyoming, most of Utah, western Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico (mapped in yellow and orange). Nevada, California, and southwest Utah contain basins with much below normal precipitation (red areas).



Total Precipitation: October 2014 - December 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2014
(Map created 03 Jan 2015)



The national map of the [three-month period](#) (October - December) shows that the eastern half of the nation received precipitation in the range from 6 inches to greater than 48 inches. Parts of the West also received significant precipitation, but these areas were generally more isolated than in the eastern U.S. The highest amounts over 48 inches were recorded in California, Oregon, and Washington. Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida all received precipitation over 18 inches in some areas.

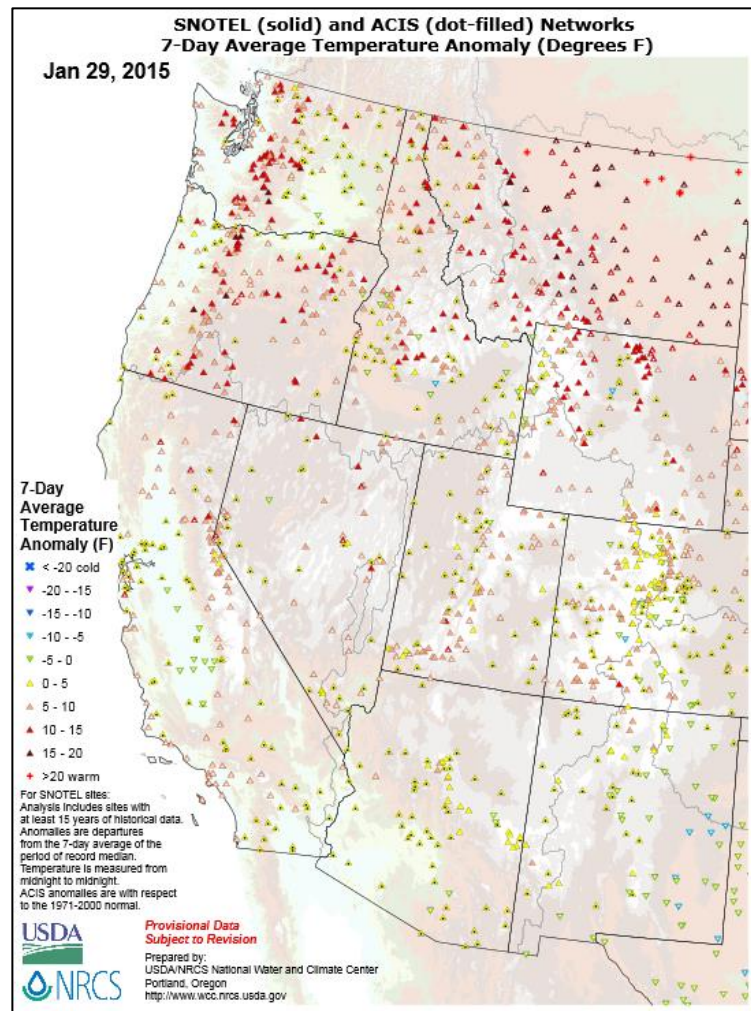
In contrast to the eastern U.S., parts of the West received totals of less than 1.8 inches. Southern California, southern Nevada, and parts of Arizona and Utah had little to no precipitation for the period.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

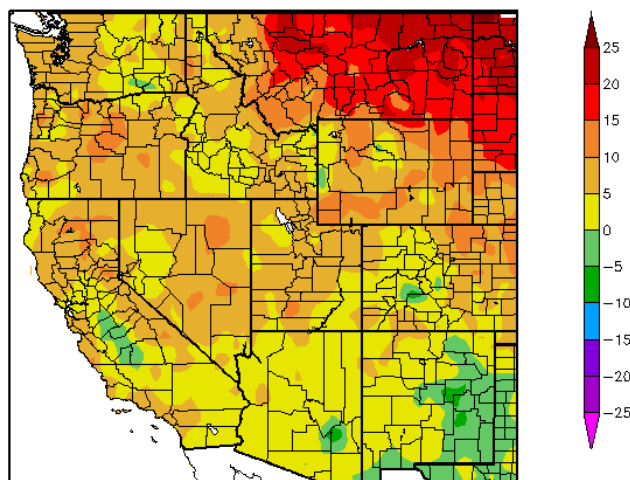
Temperature

The SNOTEL and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S. shows most of the West was warmer than normal this week. It was very warm across the northern tier states, with the warmest recorded temperature anomalies in Washington, Oregon, northern California, northern Nevada, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, where anomalies were above 10 degrees. Many areas of eastern Montana and a few stations along the Cascades in Washington and Oregon had greater than 15-degree departures from normal. Other scattered warmer than normal temperatures occurred in Utah, Colorado, southern California, and southern Nevada.

The coolest anomalies in the West were in eastern New Mexico where departures were in the -5 to -10°F range. A few other widely scattered stations were also very slightly cooler than normal.



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/22/2015 – 1/28/2015



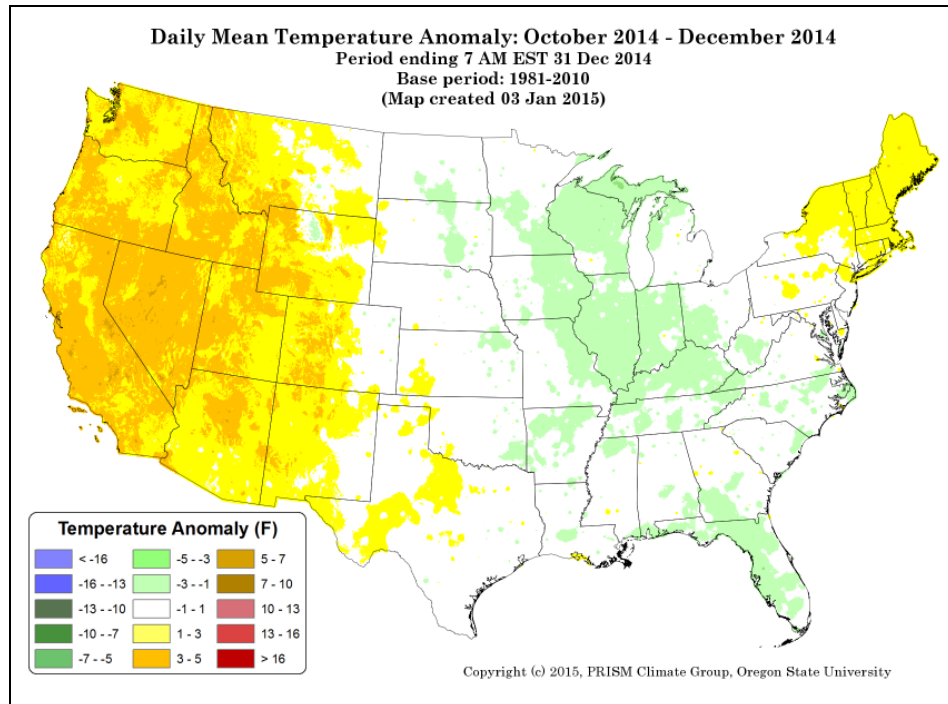
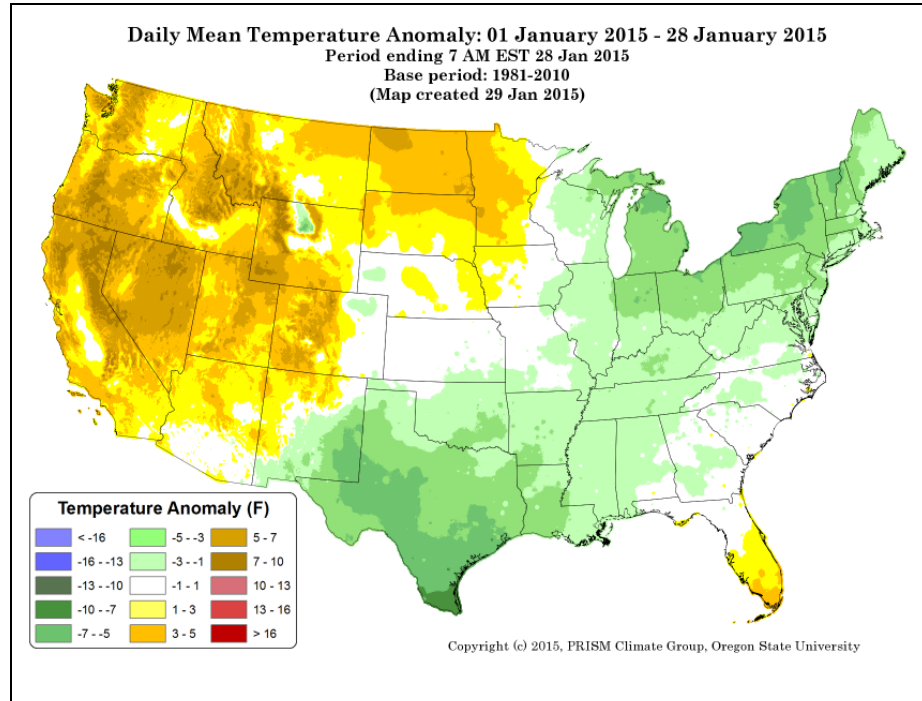
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending January 28, shows that the greatest positive temperature departures occurred in northeast Montana (>+20°F). Other warm temperatures occurred in most of the West, including California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and Wyoming. There were slightly negative temperature departures concentrated in eastern New Mexico. (<-5°F).

Also, see [Dashboard](#) and the [Westwide Drought Tracker](#)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

Thus far in January 2015, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) shows a large, cool region over most of the eastern half of the country, with the coldest anomaly in southern Texas ($<-7^{\circ}\text{F}$). Cold Canadian airflow caused much of the central U.S. to be cooler than average thus far in January. Above normal temperatures were recorded in much of the West ($>+7^{\circ}\text{F}$) and in southern Florida. ($>+3^{\circ}\text{F}$).



The October - December national daily mean temperature anomalies for the U.S. in this [climate map](#) show the western U.S. had slightly to above normal temperatures ($>+7^{\circ}\text{F}$). The central portion of the country reported normal to slightly cooler than normal temperatures for this period, with the coolest temperatures in a small area of northern Michigan ($<-3^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Weather and Drought Summary

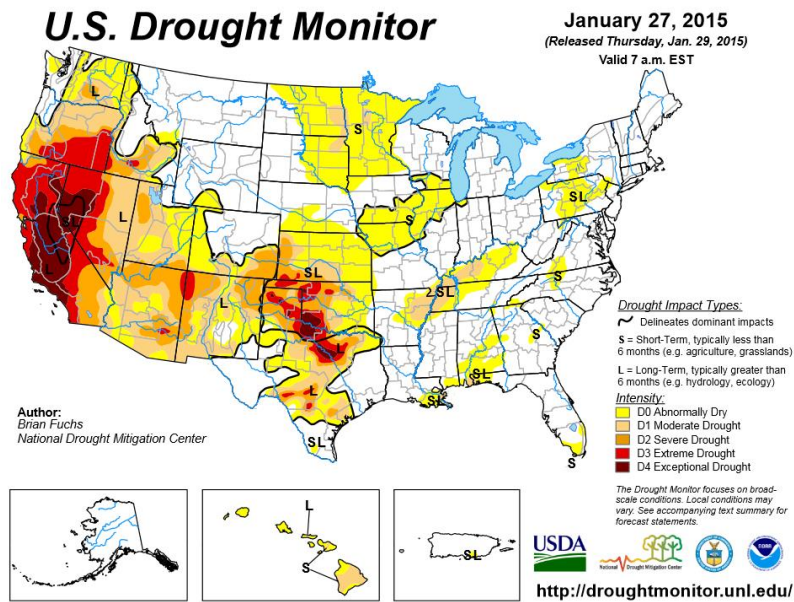
National Drought Summary – January 27, 2015

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center.

USDM Map Services: contains [archived maps](#)

"For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 28.59 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 28.18 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 65,881,294 people, compared with 67,285,200 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 23.97 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 23.63 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 66,034,968 people, compared with 67,438,874 a week earlier."



See: Latest Drought [Impacts](#) during the past week.

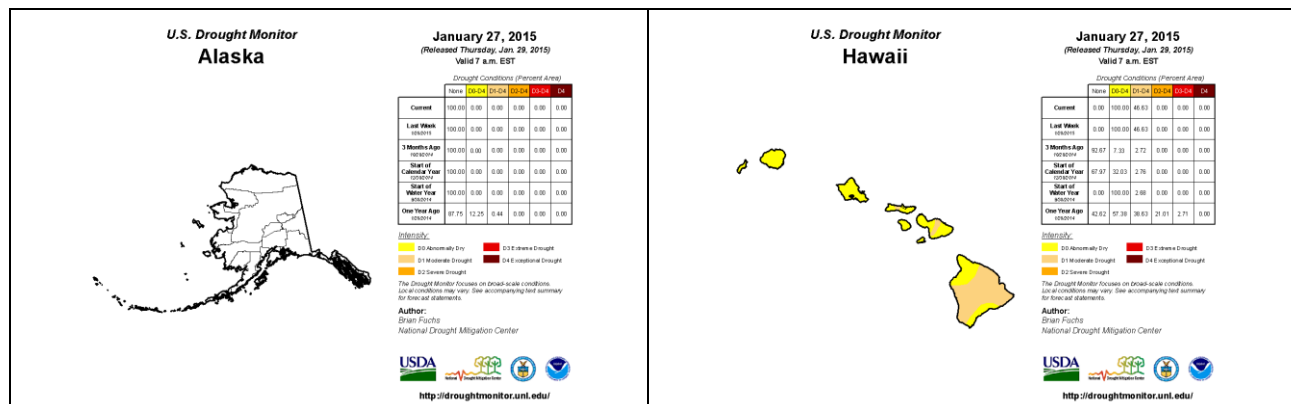
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).
New: [ENSO Blog](#).

Drought Management Resources:

- ✓ <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScope](#)
- ✓ [U.S.Crops in Drought](#)



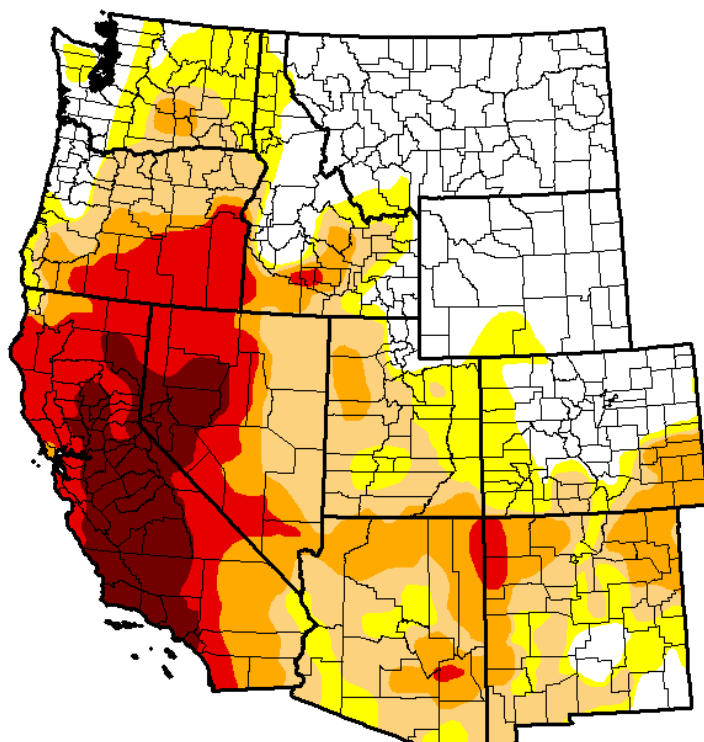
"The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show normal to moderate drought conditions. No changes were noted for Alaska or Hawaii this week. A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#)."

U.S. Drought Monitor West

January 27, 2015

(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	31.10	68.90	53.77	33.36	18.72	6.96
Last Week 1/20/2015	35.52	64.48	53.09	33.62	18.52	6.35
3 Months Ago 10/28/2014	34.52	65.48	55.05	34.64	19.08	8.90
Start of Calendar Year 1/25/2014	34.76	65.24	54.48	33.50	18.68	5.40
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	31.48	68.52	55.57	35.65	19.95	8.90
One Year Ago 1/28/2014	17.38	82.62	63.50	39.67	15.29	1.80

Intensity:

Yellow	D0 Abnormally Dry	Dark Red	D3 Extreme Drought
Light Orange	D1 Moderate Drought	Dark Orange	D4 Exceptional Drought
Orange	D2 Severe Drought		

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

There was a slight increase in D0 – D1 and D3-D4 drought categories in the West this week. D2 and the drought-free areas decreased for the week.

[Click to enlarge maps](#)

Risk Management Web Resources

Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#). Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#), [California Data Exchange Center](#) & [Flood Management Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
[California Sierra Nevada-related snow pack](#)

U.S. [Impacts](#) during the past week:

U.S. [Brisket shortage has Texas barbecue lovers facing rising costs](#) – Jan 22

S.C. [Winter rains pull S. Carolina out of early stages of drought](#) – Jan 23

Weekly Water and Climate Update

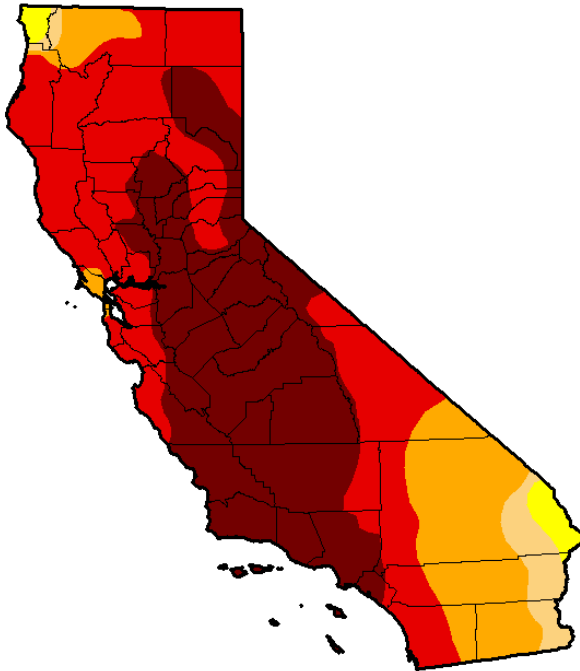
State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor California

January 27, 2015

(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.13	94.34	77.52	39.99
Last Week 1/20/2015	0.00	100.00	98.13	94.34	77.52	39.15
3 Months Ago 10/29/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
Start of Calendar Year 1/2/2014	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
One Year Ago 1/29/2014	1.43	98.57	94.18	89.91	67.13	8.77

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Brian Fuchs

National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

There was a slight increase in D4 in California this past week.

[CA Drought Information Resources](#)

[Drought News from California:](#)

[Delta water weed problems called the worst in years](#) – Jan 21

[Water stress takes toll on California's large trees, study says](#) – Jan 19

[Water conservation that stresses money saving, too](#) – Jan 22

[Record highs predicted this weekend as January stays unseasonably warm and dry](#) – Jan 22

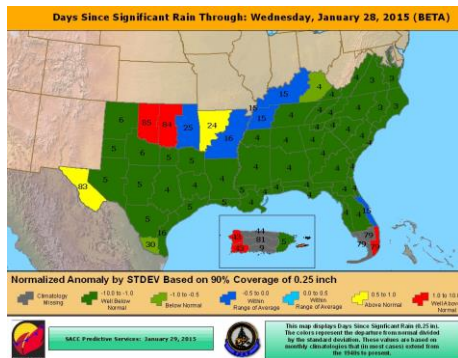
[Harvard buys up water rights in drought-hit wine country](#) – Jan 22

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Texas Drought [Website](#).
[Texas Reservoirs](#).
[Texas Drought Monitor Coordination](#)
[Conference Call](#): on Monday's 2:00
PM - 3:00 PM CST

Texas Drought News:

Texas drought diminishes, but enormous water loss persists ...
Jan 25

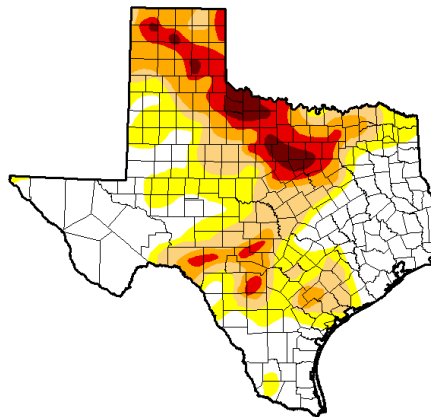


Days since Significant Rain Summary

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

January 27, 2015
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)							
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	C2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	41.42	56.58	39.22	23.93	11.24	3.05	
Last Week 1/28/2015	39.80	60.20	40.64	24.74	11.34	3.05	
3 Months Ago 10/23/2014	24.84	75.16	49.20	27.86	11.90	3.62	
Start of Calendar Year 1/23/2014	34.37	65.63	44.68	25.73	11.70	3.17	
Start of Water Year 9/5/2014	28.92	71.08	48.95	29.54	11.26	2.69	
One Year Ago 1/26/2014	19.30	80.70	49.37	22.63	7.14	0.79	

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought	 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



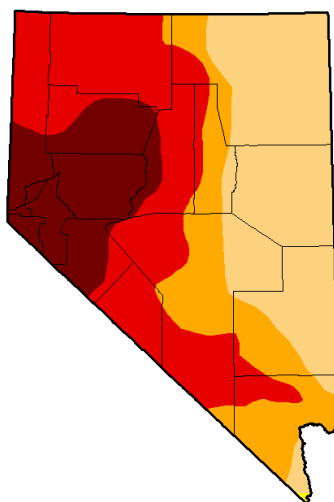
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

There was a decrease in D0 – D3 in Texas this past week. The D4 category did not change and drought-free areas increased.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought


U.S. Drought Monitor Nevada

January 27, 2015
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.93	68.25	50.06	17.40
Last Week 12/06/2015	0.00	100.00	96.97	68.25	48.38	12.10
3 Months Ago 10/02/2014	0.00	100.00	97.07	69.89	48.38	11.80
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2015	0.00	100.00	96.98	68.25	48.38	11.80
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	0.00	100.00	97.04	69.89	48.38	11.80
One Year Ago 12/6/2014	0.00	100.00	96.80	80.30	38.17	5.30

Intensity:

 D0 Abnormally Dry
  D3 Extreme Drought

 D1 Moderate Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

 D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

There was a very slight decrease in D1 in Nevada this past week. D3 and D4 drought categories increased for the week.

Nevada Drought News:

[Drought suspends cross country skiing near Tahoe – Jan 21](#)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

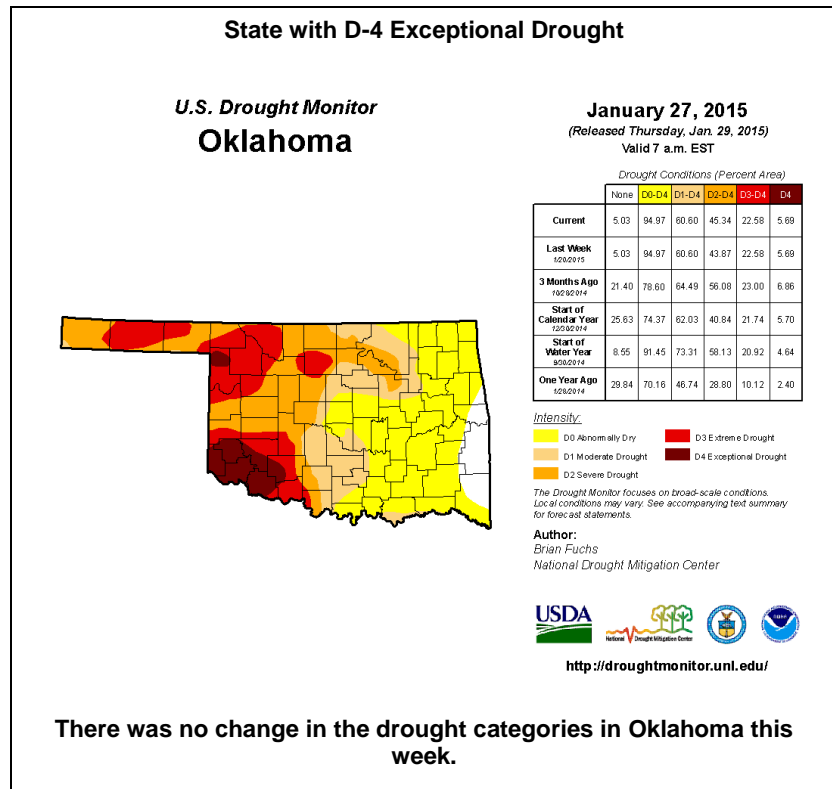
Related Area News:

[2014 Kansas Drought Report and Summary](#)

- [Past 30 days precipitation totals](#)
- [Past 30 days precipitation percent of normal](#)
- [Calendar Year precipitation totals](#)
- [Calendar Year Precip percent of normal](#)
- [Short Crop ET](#)

Oklahoma Drought News:

[Drought-Stricken Oklahoma Communities Dealing With Prospect of Dead Lakes](#) – Jan 15



U.S. Population in Drought

Number of people in each drought category in the U.S. for the week ending January 27, 2015

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2015-01-27	184,361,350	121,036,105	65,881,295	48,755,074	38,106,927	21,093,404
2015-01-20	205,299,782	100,097,673	67,285,201	48,999,128	38,106,155	21,023,169

Population figures affected by drought in the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that, for this week, more than 65,800,000 people in the United States were in a drought-affected area, which decreased by over 1,403,000 people from last week.

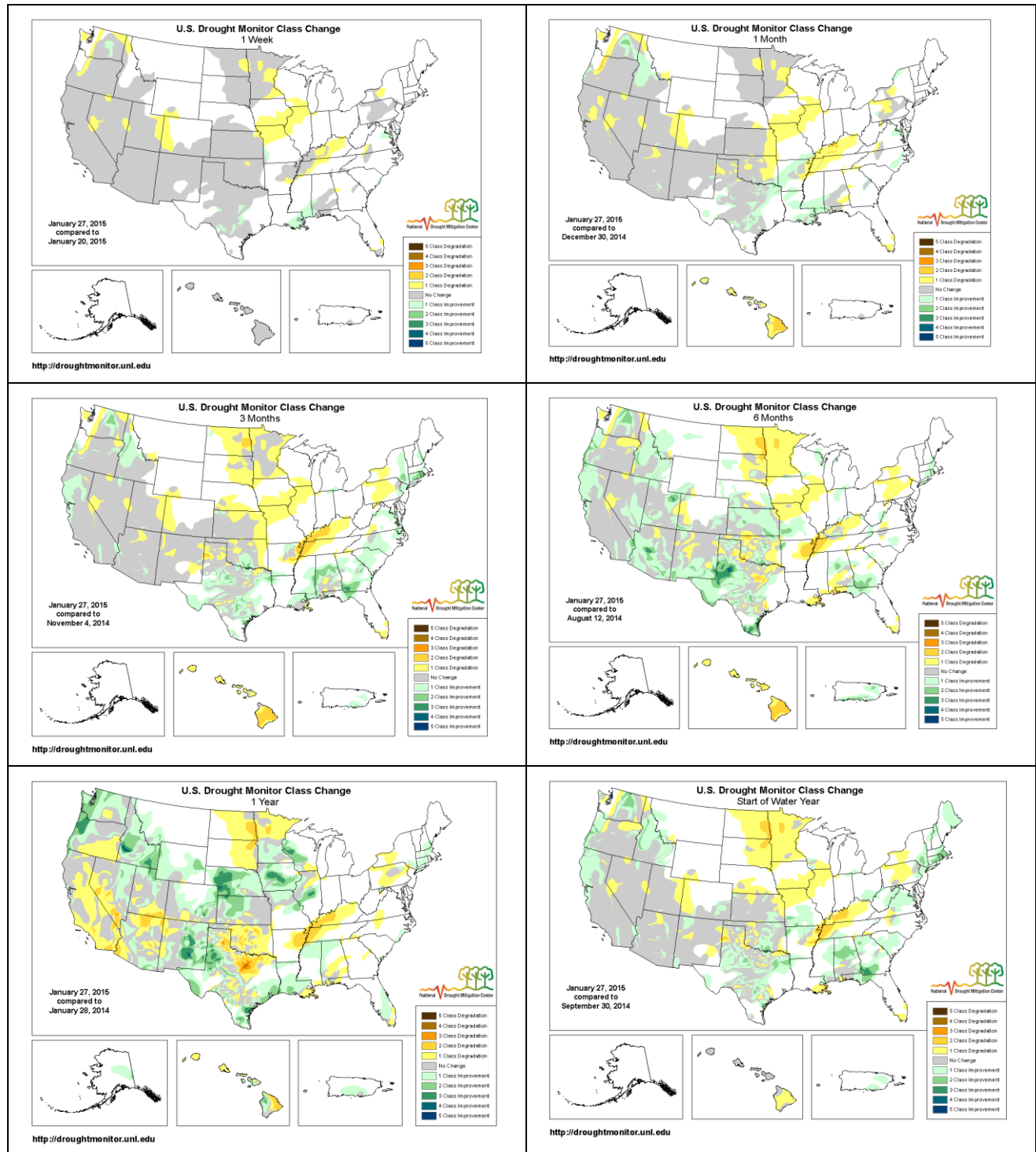
Population Statistics Methodology:

The U.S. Drought Monitor population statistics are calculated at the county level, and aggregated to the state, regional, and national levels. The population densities have been calculated for each county. The proportion of the physical area of the county that is in drought is multiplied by the uniform population density in order to obtain a number for each county. The county values are then summed at the state, regional, and national level.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories

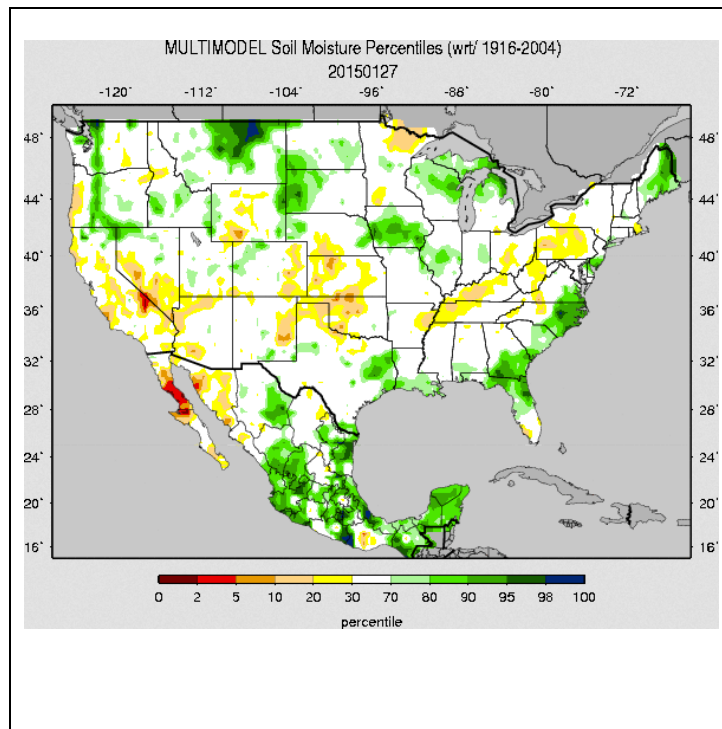
Over Various Time Periods



Click on any of these maps to enlarge. Note how the conditions over the Rockies and central Great Plains have improved between 6 to 12 months (middle right to lower left maps). However, also note that since a year ago, conditions over parts of the Northeast, the South, parts of the southern Great Plains and the Pacific coast states have deteriorated significantly (lower left map).

Weekly Water and Climate Update

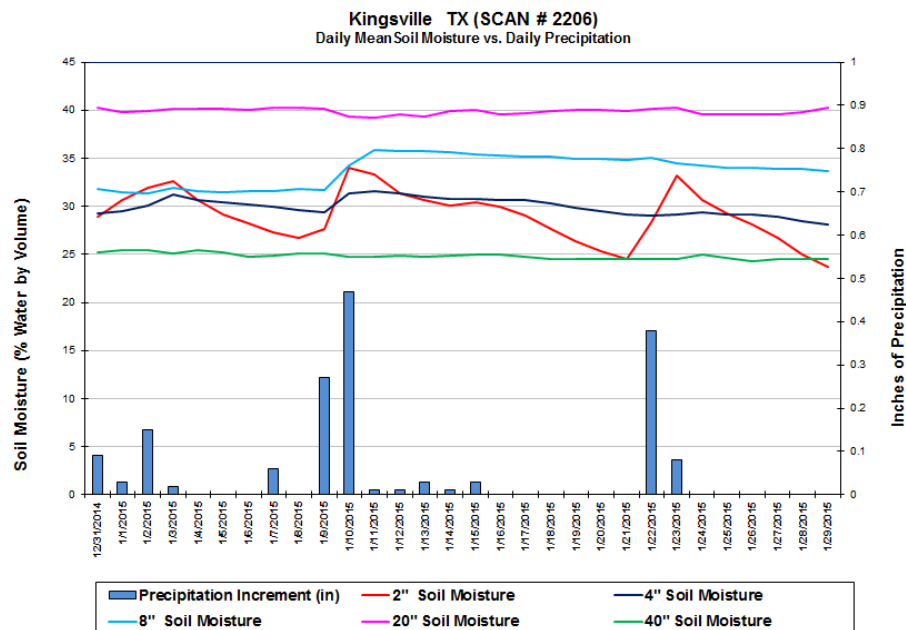
Soil Moisture



The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of January 27, 2015, shows dryness over most of the south central and southwest U.S. The driest areas are in southern Wyoming, southern Nevada, California, eastern New Mexico through central Oklahoma, Nebraska, and northern Minnesota. There were additional dry areas elsewhere. Moist soils dominated north central Montana, western Washington and Oregon, western South Dakota, Iowa, northern Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine, eastern North Carolina, northern Florida, and southern Georgia. Slightly moist soils were also scattered elsewhere throughout the country, especially in the Northeast and Southeast.

Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#); [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#); [Experimental High Resolution Drought Trigger Tool](#); [NLDAS Drought Monitor](#); [Soil Moisture](#)

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

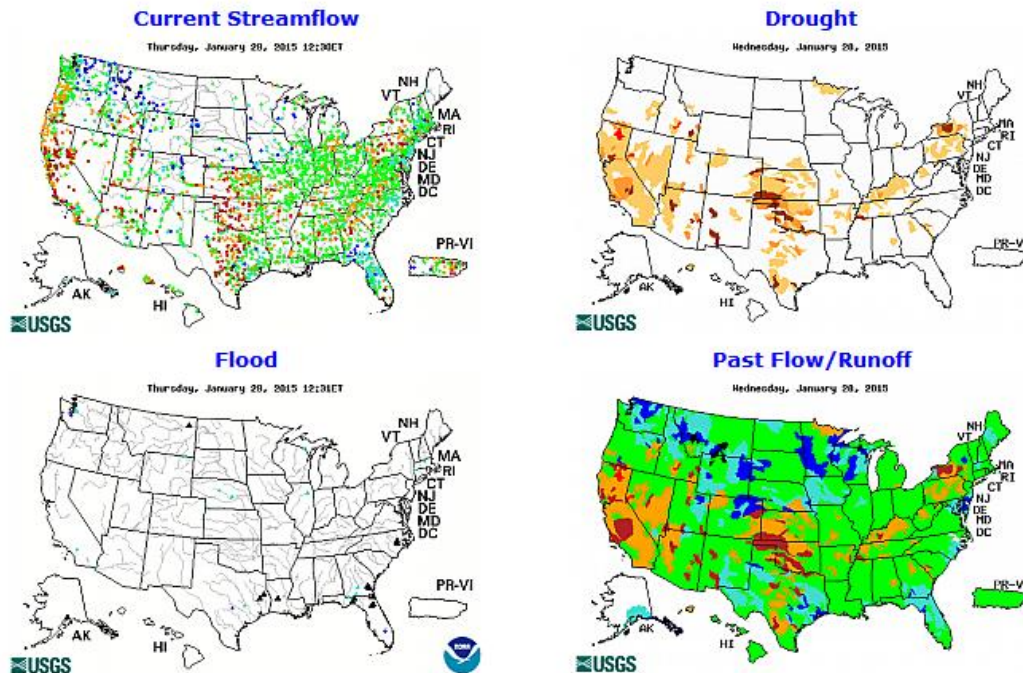


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data for the last month at [Kingsville SCAN site \(#2206\)](#) in Texas. The area had precipitation several times this past month (blue bars). This rainfall resulted in an increase in soil moisture, primarily at the 2- and 4-inch depths. The other depth sensors reported little change in soil moisture from the precipitation events.

Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#). [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

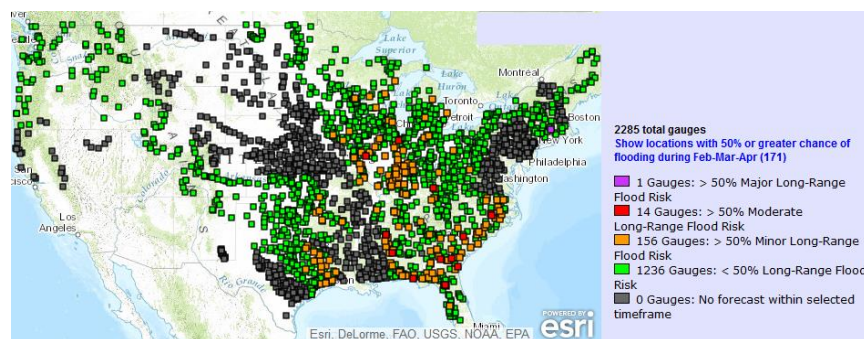
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Streamflow



Scattered gages in many parts of the U.S. are reporting much above normal streamflow. Some gages in the northern states are now frozen, so may not relate to the precipitation and snow conditions in that area. The rivers above flood stage are the Poplar River near Poplar, MT, Neches River near Diboll, TX, Attoyac Bayou near Chireno, TX, Calcasieu R near Glenmora, LA, Contentnea Ck at Hookerton, NC, Neuse River at Kinston, NC, Lower Satilla River near Offerman, GA, and at seven river gages in northern Florida.

National Long-Range Outlook



Click map to enlarge and update

Currently the Upper Midwest part of the map has not been calculated for the long range flood outlook (dark gray dots).

During the next three months, there is a risk of flooding in much of the eastern U.S. The Southeast and the Midwest have gauges with a slight to higher risk of flooding. Currently, **1** gauge has a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **14** gauges for moderate flooding; and **156** gauges for minor flooding.

These numbers represent a **77** gauge decrease in the greater than 50 percent chance of minor flooding category since last week.

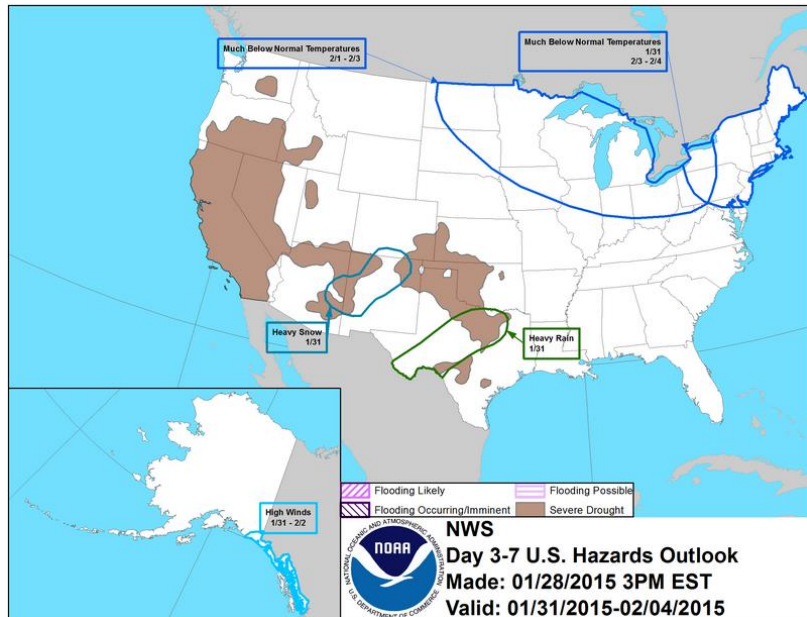
Weekly Water and Climate Update

National [Weather Hazards](#)

Heavy snow is expected in Arizona and New Mexico (1/31) (medium blue). Much below average temperatures are expected from the Dakotas and upper Midwest to central New York (2/1-3) and continuing into New England (2/3-4). Heavy rain is expected across central Texas (1/31).

In Alaska, high winds are expected for several days in the Southeast part of the state (1/31-2/2).

Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the south central and western U.S.



[National Drought Summary for January 27, 2015](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center.

Summary

"Temperatures during the last week were well above normal over the majority of the United States, with departures of up to 20 degrees Fahrenheit above normal over the High Plains and northern Rocky Mountains. A few areas did experience temperatures below normal, mainly confined to west Texas and eastern New Mexico as well as southern New England, where departures were 5-10 degrees Fahrenheit below normal. At the end of the current Drought Monitor period, a strong winter storm impacted much of the northeastern United States with strong winds and snow. Most of the country was fairly dry over the last week with the southern plains, Gulf Coast, and southeast receiving the most precipitation. The western United States remained dry, and some areas are on track to having one of the driest Januarys on record.

Gulf Coast

Significant rain fell along the Gulf Coast, where 2-3 inch readings were common from Louisiana to Alabama. A full category improvement to the drought status was made this week in response to this precipitation and the positive impact on conditions.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico

There were no changes made in Alaska, Hawaii, or Puerto Rico this week.

Mid Atlantic and Southeast

South Florida remains dry, but most of the rest of the region did receive some precipitation over the last week. With the ongoing dryness in south Florida, the abnormally dry conditions were expanded this week. The driest areas were in northern Georgia and Alabama, extending into the Tennessee Valley. Most of this area recorded temperatures that were normal to slightly above normal for the week. Changes for the U.S Drought Monitor this week consisted of a slight expansion of abnormally dry conditions in southern Virginia and northern North Carolina due to the short-term conditions. In western Kentucky, D0 and D1 conditions were expanded to the south and east respectively while D0 was expanded in western Georgia. On the coast of South Carolina, the small areas of D0 were removed this week along with a small area of D0 in eastern Maryland and the Delmarva Peninsula.

Midwest

Another dry week with above-normal temperatures was common over the Midwest this week. Temperatures were 3-12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, with the greatest departures over the upper Midwest. Precipitation

Weekly Water and Climate Update

of less than 0.50 inches was common throughout the region. Even with the winter being a dry time of year in the Midwest, the last 3 months have been well below normal for precipitation and snowfall too. The short-term indicators are picking up this dryness. Coordinating those indicators, large areas of abnormally dry conditions were introduced this week from northwest Missouri into Iowa and east into Illinois and southern Wisconsin. In Minnesota, moderate drought was introduced into the northern portions of the state as well as along the border with North Dakota. Much of the rest of Minnesota had abnormally dry conditions introduced in response to the winter dryness.

South

Most of Texas and southern Oklahoma recorded precipitation this week, but most other areas were dry. Temperatures were 2-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal over most areas except west Texas, which was 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit below normal. Improvements to the drought status were made in southern and eastern portions of Texas in response to this week's precipitation. Degradation took place over northeast Oklahoma in response to record low lake levels, introducing more severe drought to the region. In northeast Arkansas, D0 and D1 conditions were expanded slightly to the south as this area remains dry.

The High Plains

As with the Midwest, warm and dry conditions dominated the region. Temperatures were 5-15 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the week with very few places recording any precipitation. In response to short-term conditions, D1 was expanded north in North Dakota this week.

The Northeast

A significant winter storm in the region brought a great deal of precipitation to the coastal regions as well as high winds. Some of the larger metropolitan areas did miss the brunt of the storm, but were impacted none the less. Temperatures were below normal over southern New England, with departures of 4-6 degrees Fahrenheit below normal. Outside of the coastal regions, most of the area recorded below-normal precipitation for the week. Abnormally dry conditions were expanded in portions of western New York this week as the seasonal dryness is impacting the region, especially for winter activities.

The West

Continuing the pattern for most of January, the week ended with warm and mainly dry conditions over the western United States. Temperatures were 5-10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, and only portions of northwest Washington and eastern New Mexico recorded any precipitation of significance. With the ongoing drought, drought intensity did increase in portions of western Nevada as D4 conditions were expanded to the south and D3 conditions were expanded in the north. In eastern Nevada, D1 was introduced along the border with Utah. A large expansion of abnormally dry conditions was introduced from northeast Utah into Wyoming and western Colorado. In Oregon, the D1 conditions were expanded to the west along the Cascades while in Washington, D0 was expanded in the west and northern portions of the state as well as in northeast Washington into the Idaho panhandle. Some areas of central Washington did see enough precipitation to warrant improvement to D2 and D1 conditions.

Looking Ahead

Over the next 5-7 days, temperatures are expected to be below normal for most areas east of the continental divide. The greatest departures are projected to be over the upper Midwest and Great Lakes regions while temperatures are expected to stay above normal over the western United States. Models are in fairly strong agreement on a strong storm system developing over the southwest and ejecting onto the plains. This system does pull some Pacific moisture into it, bringing a good chance of precipitation over Arizona, New Mexico and the desert regions of southern California. As this system tracks to the east, much of the southern plains, lower Mississippi River valley, and Mid-Atlantic are expecting to see precipitation of up to 1.50 inches.

The 6-10 day outlook continues to show that the western third of the United States has the highest probabilities of above-normal temperatures. After being above normal during the last few weeks, the eastern half of the country looks to get back into a more seasonal pattern, with the best chances of below-normal temperatures over New England. The drought in the west will not see much relief through the first week of February as the area remains likely to have below-normal precipitation. There are also above-normal chances of below-normal precipitation through much of the plains, Midwest, Gulf Coast and Ohio River valley, while portions of the central and northern Rocky Mountains and the southeast look to have the best chances of receiving above-normal precipitation. "

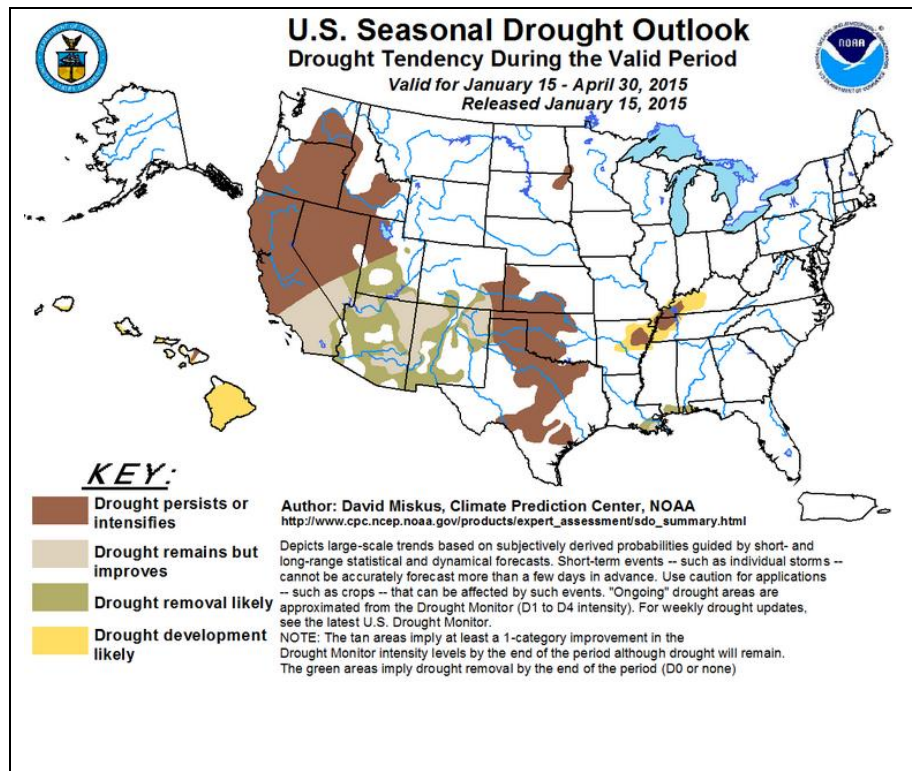
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Supplemental Drought Information

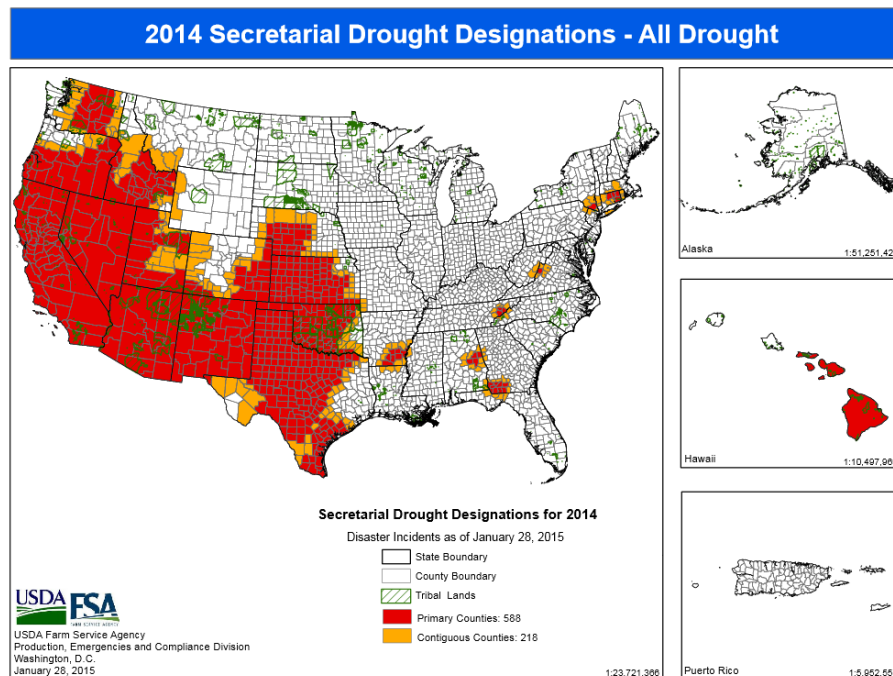
National Seasonal Drought Outlook

Nationally, [drought](#) is expected to persist or intensify over much of the West and south central U.S., including Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Colorado. Improvements are expected in southern California and in parts of the Southwest and Texas. The areas of drought in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky are likely to develop further. Hawaii drought development is also likely.

Also see: [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) (updated on the first of each month) contains a content summary of the previous month's conditions.



2014 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations, as of January 28, 2015



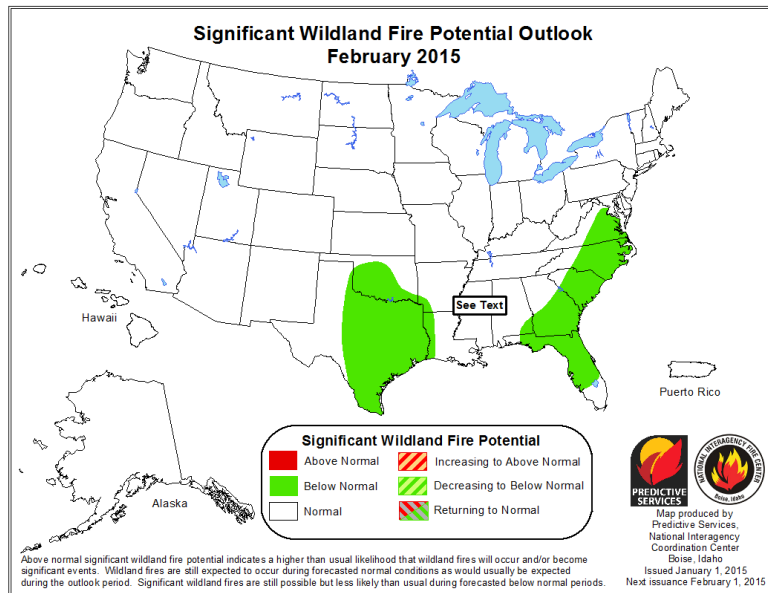
Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

Read about the new [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

[New useful resource: NASS Quick Stats](#)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

National Fire Potential Outlook



February Fire Forecast

In February, much of the U.S. has normal [fire potential](#).

The below normal fire potential area for February 2015 (in green on the map) is forecast for Texas, and the Southeast to the Mid-Atlantic States.

Additional Maps

U.S. Maps PowerPoint presentation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/US-Maps.ppt>.

Regional zooms of ACIS station data percent-of-normal precipitation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/All-CONUS-ACIS-PNP.pptx>.

National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) maps: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/swsi.html>

Supplemental Drought-Agriculture News

Download [archived](#) “U.S. Crops in Drought” files.

The following is a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website. The list is compiled by Denise D. Gutzmer, Drought Impact Specialist, and National Drought Mitigation Center.

Drought worries

Fears that drought will continue in California abounded this week as the state experienced a very dry January after a moist December, and the forecast for storms isn't so rosy. However, a few communities eased water restrictions after the December rain.

Not enough snow for ski resorts

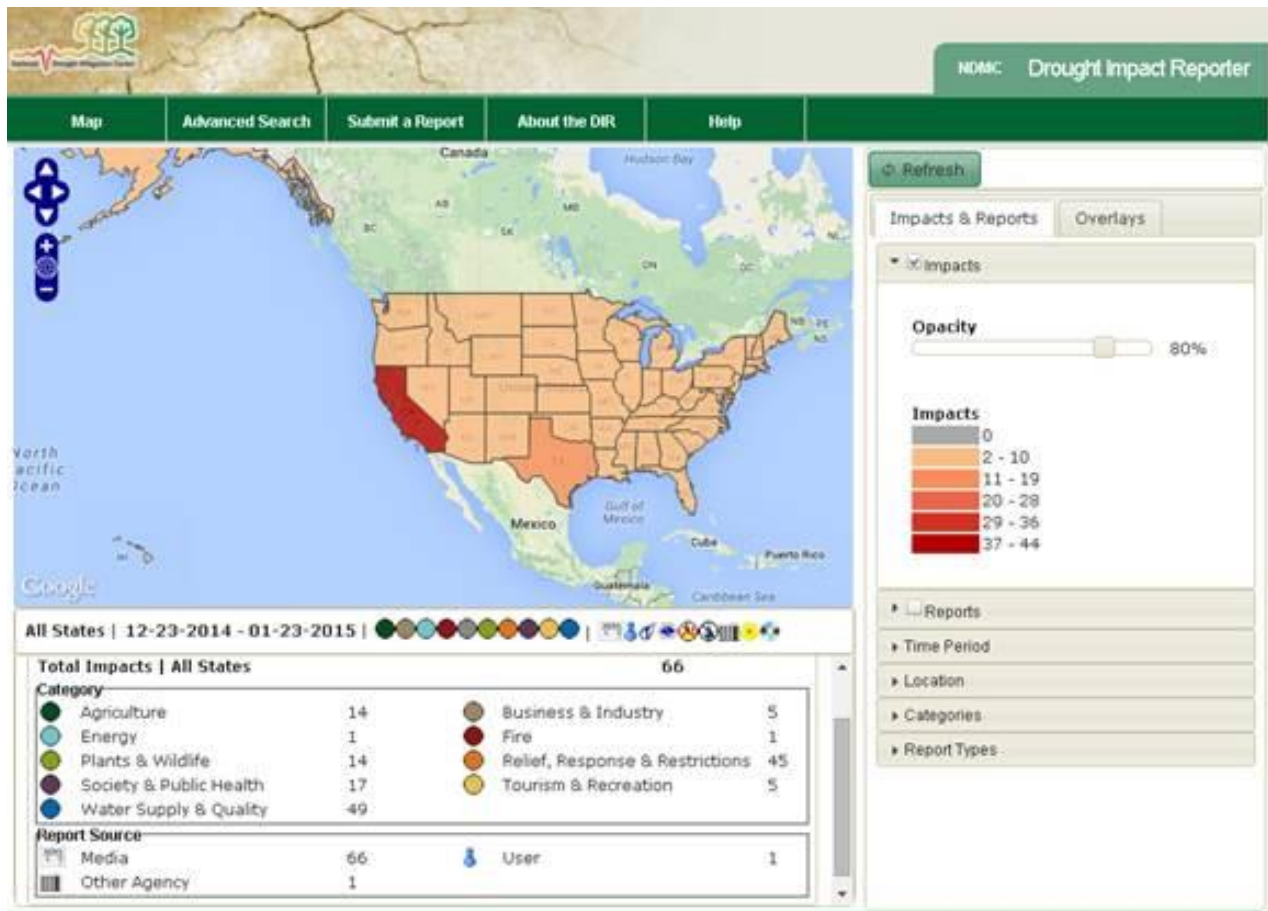
Several ski resorts in California closed until more snow falls to deepen the snowpack. Tahoe Donner Cross Country near Truckee, the Dodge Ridge ski resort in Tuolumne County and Badger Pass ski resort in Yosemite National Park hope to reopen soon.

California land values skyrocketing

The value of land with water has risen in the Paso Robles area and also in Sonoma and Napa counties. Irrigable land in the Paso Robles area was selling for \$15,000 to \$20,000 per acre, compared to \$3,000 for an acre of dry pasture. The price for irrigable land has increased dramatically during drought and is expected to climb as

Weekly Water and Climate Update

investors from Napa Valley and Sonoma look for good land. The cost of land in the Napa Valley and Sonoma ranges from \$75,000 to \$100,000 per acre.



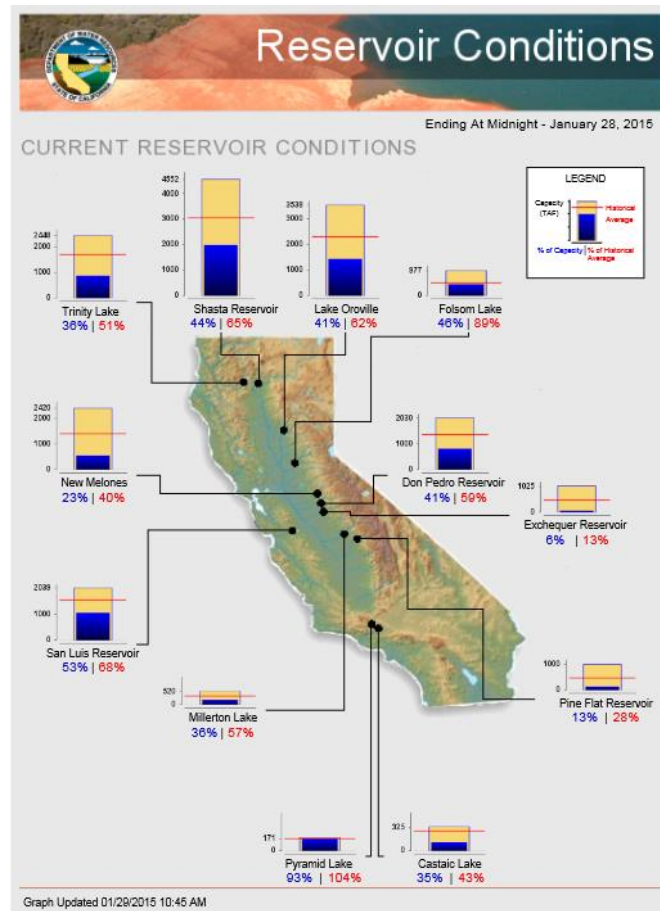
Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc_gr.html ← Upper Snake
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc_cr.html ← Upper Colorado
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html> ← Pacific Northwest
- <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/teacup-diagram-of-reservoirs/> ← Sevier River Water (UT)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

California Reservoir Conditions

[California Major Reservoir conditions from the CA Department of Water Resources](#)



State Activities

[State government drought activities](#) can be tracked through their drought plans. NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SSWSF information. Additional information describing the [tools](#) available from the Drought Monitor can also be found at the [U.S. Drought Portal](#).

More Information

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) [Homepage](#) provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. This document is available [weekly](#). CONUS Water and Climate Updates from 2007 are available online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/

David W. Smith

Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment